

Message Text

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PAGE 01 NEW DE 10138 311112Z

13

ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 NEA-14 ISO-00 SMI-01 HEW-08 SCI-06 AID-20

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DEPARTMENT PASS SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTE FOR DILLON RIPLEY AND
HEW FOR SURGEON GENERAL

DOD FOR DEPT OF ARMY

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TBIO, IN

SUBJ: PRESS GUIDANCE - WHO SPONSORED SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH IN INDIA

REFS: NEW DELHI 10030, NEW DELHI 10111, NEW DELHI 10131,
NEW DELHI 10132

1. IN REPLYING TO PRESS INQUIRIES WHICH MAY BE GENERATED BY
NEW YORK TIMES AND ASSOCIATED PRESS DESPATCHES ON WHO-SPONSORED
SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH IN INDIA THE EMBASSY SUGGESTS THE FOLLOWING
PRESS GUIDANCE:

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A) AS THE MINISTER OF HEALTH SAID IN THE INDIAN PARLIAMENT ON

JULY 30 THERE IS NO SECRECY IN ANY OF THE PROJECTS ... THEY HAVE ALL BEEN CONDUCTED WITH THE FULL KNOWLEDGE OF THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA... SCIENTISTS AND EXPERTS FROM INDIA HAVE BEEN INVOLVED IN THE FORMULATION OF THESE PROJECTS FROM THE VERY BEGINNING ... THE GOVERNMENT HAS PERIODICALLY REVIEWED THEM... AND THE RESULTS HAVE BEEN PUBLISHED IN SCIENTIFIC JOURNALS.

B) WITH REGARD TO THE SPECIFIC CONTROVERSY THIS APPEARS TO BE BASICALLY A MATTER OF INTERNAL POLITICS AND ONE ON WHICH IT IS INAPPROPRIATE TO COMMENT ON.

C) IF ASKED ABOUT THE US ARMY'S MIGRATORY ANIMAL PATHOLOGICAL SURVEY (MAPS) SPOKESMAN SHOULD RESPOND BY POINTING OUT THAT FROM 1967 TO 1970 MAPS PROVIDED THE BOMBAY NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY (BNHS) WITH GRANTS AMOUNTING TO \$11,000 IN RUPEES. THESE WERE AT THE REQUEST OF THE SOCIETY AND THE WORLD FAMOUS ORNITHOLOGIST DR. SALIM ALI WHO ASKED FOR HELP TO CONTINUE RESEARCH ON MIGRATORY BIRDS WHICH THE BNHS HAD BEGUN IN 1928. THE WORK INCLUDED BANDING OF BIRDS AND THE STUDY OF AIRBORNE INSECTS. AS PART OF THE AGREEMENT THE US WAS TO RECEIVE ANY RESEARCH PUBLISHED WITH ABSOLUTELY NO RESTRICTIONS ON ITS USE BY THE BNHS OR THE GOI. THIS WAS ALL TOTALLY UNCLASSIFIED RESEARCH.

D) IF ASKED ABOUT PARTICIPATION OF THE SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION IN THE BNHS PROJECT THE SPOKESMAN CAN STATE THAT FROM 1967-1971 FOUR GRANTS WERE AWARDED BY THE SMITHSONIAN, ALSO GIVEN WITH GOI APPROVAL, AMOUNTING TO 525,740 RUPEES.

E) IF ASKED ABOUT THE US PARTICIPATION IN WHO PROJECTS IN INDIA THE SPOKESMAN CAN SAY SOME PL-480 FUNDS HAVE BEEN MADE AVAILABLE FOR WHO PROJECTS AND AT THE PRESENT TIME THERE ARE 20 AMERICANS EPIDEMIOLOGISTS WORKING IN THE COUNTRY ON AN URGENT WHO PROJECT TO CONTROL SMALLPOX AT THE REQUEST OF THE GOI. MOYNIHAN

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